



NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
City Of Charleston Public Works Property Site
1950 & 2150 Milford Street, Charleston, South Carolina

DHEC (the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) is accepting public comments on a potential Voluntary Cleanup Contract until Feb. 12, 2009.

The Voluntary Cleanup Contract, 08-5794-NRP, will affect approximately 16.37 acres identified by tax map numbers 466-00-00-017 and 466-00-00-017-046. A company known as Ashley II of Charleston, LLC ("Ashley II") has purchased the property from the City of Charleston. Ashley II intends to redevelop the property for commercial and mixed-use purposes. The potential reuse of the property includes retail, office and hotel space, and may include multifamily and single family residences.

The City of Charleston has operated its Public Works department and a vehicle maintenance garage on the property since 1975. These operations included several petroleum storage tanks. Also, the City used part of the property for fire training activities that involved extinguishing petroleum fires. The adjacent properties have been used by fertilizer manufacturing and wood treatment industries for over 100 years. As a result of the operations on the property and its vicinity, soil and groundwater on the property were polluted with industrial chemicals and petroleum spills. A groundwater cleanup remedy is underway with oversight by DHEC and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

This Voluntary Cleanup Contract will be between DHEC and Ashley II. If this contract is implemented, DHEC will allow Ashley II to acquire the property as a "Brownfields Site" because of the environmental pollution. DHEC will not hold Ashley II responsible for the pre-existing pollution in exchange for doing work under the Voluntary Cleanup Contract to make the property suitable for re-use. Under State law, Ashley II will not be responsible if anyone is affected by the contamination. Entering into this contract does not reduce the responsibility of any former owners or operators of the site.

Ashley II did not create the pollution, but will take steps to make the property safe for re-use. Under the proposed contract, Ashley II will test samples of soil and groundwater from the property. If significant contamination is found, Ashley II will be required to take additional steps to protect human health and the environment.

DHEC uses Voluntary Cleanup Contracts to keep Brownfield sites in productive reuse. Public comments on the proposed contracts help DHEC balance the environmental and redevelopment issues in the best interest of the state. The proposed contract is available at http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/public_notice.asp. Printed copies may be obtained from the DHEC Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3882.

Citizens may provide written, email, or telephone comments on the proposed contract until Feb. 12, 2009. Questions or comments may be directed to Angela Gorman, Project Manager, email

gormanak@dhec.sc.gov, telephone (803) 896-4121, or Craig Dukes, email dukescv@dhec.sc.gov or TOLL-FREE telephone (866) 576-3432. Written comments should be directed to either individual at SCDHEC, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.